

he said. Hydropower is produced at eight projects. Another important element of the program is regulation, including control of dredging and filling of navigable streams, that helps the Corps maintain the integrity of its projects.

The group moves back toward the lobby, past the highly secured Emergency Operations Center, which Emergency Management Chief Bill Horry keeps prepared to function in case of military mobilization or civil crisis.

"In the event of an emergency, we move into highest gear to help with tornadoes, floods — and even droughts," Horry explained.

## **THE GHOST**

**OF PLANNERS PAST.** "It looks like we're running out of time," Patete said, drawing the tour to a close.

"I have really enjoyed visiting with you today and talking about my favorite subject: the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"In closing, let me just say that the employees of the Tulsa District are a stalwart lot who have kept this program moving forward for the past 50 years, through war and peace, good times and bad, prosperity and every imaginable adversity.

"The impact of their work on this region is incalculable.

"And I believe they will be here when I am long gone, still moving forward, still carrying out visions — under the watchful ghost of that first Tulsa District planner and all his successors — still embracing dreams for better lives for all the people of this region and this great nation and, in fact, the world."

The lobby was awash in sunlight as Patete said a crisp military good-bye to his guests and walked smartly upstairs.

Behind him on the grand marble staircase, only a dreamer would have discerned a pale shadow, moving with a ghostly air from yesterday, through today, into tomorrow . . . with a faint smile . . .



Where do we find ourselves?  
... we wake and find ourselves on a stair;  
there are stairs below which we seem to have ascended;  
there are stairs above many a one, which go upward and of sight . . .

— Emerson